

that legislation, which was written over the last 3½ years, doesn't address one specific issue that I think must be addressed now in the context of what is happening in my State of Ohio and around the country, because it is not just prescription drugs and not just heroin. Increasingly, it is this synthetic heroin called fentanyl or carfentanil and sometimes U-4. This is poison and it is getting into our communities. It is much more powerful than heroin. Ingesting just a few flakes of it can kill a human being.

We have seen huge spikes in overdoses in Ohio over the last couple of months. In my hometown of Cincinnati, we had 174 overdoses in the space of 6 days. Miraculously, most people were saved by Narcan but sometimes having to be administered four or five or six times. The authorities knew it wasn't just heroin, and sure enough, we were able to get a sample of carfentanil to them thinking that might be the problem. They tested it, and sure of enough, many of these overdoses were caused by this synthetic heroin which is 100 times stronger than heroin in some cases. By the way, it is a large animal tranquilizer used for elephants in zoos. Yet these traffickers and pushers are using this drug and not just causing overdoses but causing overdose deaths.

We need new legislation. Last week, we introduced legislation in this Chamber to be able to stop this fentanyl, carfentanil, U-4, and these other synthetic drugs from coming into our communities.

What we were told by the authorities is, the drugs come in by way of the mail system primarily from China and sometimes India. There are chemists in sophisticated laboratories in these countries sending this poison into our community. All we are asking for in our legislation is let's ensure that packages coming from those countries have the information provided so we know where they are coming from, where they are going, and what the contents are. Unbelievably, that is not required now. FedEx, UPS, and other private carriers require it, but our mail system, including our U.S. mail system, does not require it. Talking to law enforcement, including Customs and Border Protection, DEA folks, and the people who are in the trenches dealing with this issue, all agree this legislation makes sense so we can try to stop some of this poison from coming into our communities.

I have been on this floor every single week since our legislation came up back on March 10. I have been talking about the importance of getting legislation passed, and that has now happened. I have been talking about the importance of implementing it quickly, and that is now happening. The Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act was supported by an amazing 92-to-2 vote in this Chamber because every State is affected.

I believe we need to do even more with regard to the specific issue of

these synthetic drugs coming into our country through the mail system. I ask my colleagues to support it—with 92 of us supporting that legislation—and please look at this legislation. Let's support it, get it to the floor, get it to a vote, and let's begin saving more lives as we have to deal with this new wave of synthetic heroin coming into our communities.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Gibson nomination?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) would have voted "yea".

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) would each vote yea.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 142 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Alexander	Fischer	Murray
Baldwin	Flake	Nelson
Barrasso	Franken	Paul
Bennet	Gardner	Perdue
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Peters
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Booker	Grassley	Reed
Boozman	Hatch	Reid
Brown	Heinrich	Risch
Burr	Heitkamp	Roberts
Cantwell	Heller	Rounds
Capito	Hirono	Rubio
Cardin	Hoeven	Sasse
Carper	Inhofe	Schatz
Casey	Isakson	Schumer
Cassidy	King	Scott
Coats	Kirk	Sessions
Cochran	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Collins	Lankford	Shelby
Cooms	Leahy	Stabenow
Corker	Lee	Sullivan
Cornyn	Manchin	Tester
Cotton	Markey	Thune
Crapo	McCain	Tillis
Cruz	McCaskill	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Enzi	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden

NOT VOTING—7

Ayotte	Kaine	Vitter
Boxer	Moran	
Johnson	Sanders	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Alaska.

REMEMBERING THE VENERABLE NORMAN H.V. ELLIOTT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, it seems I am coming to the floor of the Senate on an increasingly frequent basis to honor the pioneering men and women who arrived in the State of Alaska prior to statehood who truly have left a lasting impression on the history of the 49th State.

Today I rise to remember the Venerable Norman H.V. Elliott. Father Elliott was an Episcopal clergyman who arrived in Alaska in 1951. He was truly a profound spiritual force in Alaska from the day he arrived in our State until his death on Friday, September 9 of this year. Father Elliott passed at the age of 97. To say he lived his life to the fullest would be a huge understatement.

Father Elliott lived a life as big as the State of Alaska. As we reflect upon that life, it would be no overstatement to characterize Norman Elliott as a true Alaskan icon.

Father Elliott was born in England. He moved to Detroit, MI, when he was 4 years old, and according to the stories, he decided very early on, about middle-school age, that he wanted to enter the ministry.

That future was somewhat interrupted by World War II. Father Elliott was drawn to military service, and after considering the possibility of joining a Canadian Forces battalion in neighboring Windsor, Ontario, he chose the U.S. Army instead. He was assigned to a new experimental light infantry division which was patterned after a German light division. After training in the swamps of Louisiana and California's mountains, he was deployed to Europe. Initially deployed to France, he fought in Luxembourg and Germany.

I had an opportunity to come to know Father Elliott very well over the years. Several years back, he agreed to sit for an interview as part of our Veterans Spotlight series. This is an oral history project I sponsored to capture the stories of Alaskan veterans. We worked in conjunction with the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress. In that interview, Father Elliott talked about the realities of the war. He said: